

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-12 are pending in this application. Claim 3 is herein canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. 2004/0064380 to Hiratsuka in view of U.S. 2003/0012098 to Sako et al. (herein "Sako"). That rejection is traversed as now discussed.

Each of the independent claims is herein amended to recite additional features, and particularly now further recites the medium identifying information specific to and uniquely characterizing one recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium is acquired:

by imaging by a camera a printed surface of the one recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium to generate a luminance signal, and generating the medium identifying information by starting an operation of generating the luminance signal based on a physical address recorded on a recording surface of the recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium[.]

The above-noted features are believed to be clear from the original disclosure, see for example the specification at page 17, line 20 to page 19, line 13. As discussed in that portion of the specification, a camera, see for example CMOS camera 20 in Figure 2 in the present specification, can pick up an image of a printed surface of a recording medium. By synchronizing that picking up of the printed surface of the recording medium with an address on a recording surface of the recording medium, recording medium identifying information that is specific to each recording medium can be obtained.

That operation is based on applicants of the present invention recognizing when printing a recording medium such as a DVD, the printed surface and the recording surface are molded separately in a manufacturing process, and therefore the relational position between

the printed surface and the recorded surface differ from each DVD to another.¹ The claimed invention can utilize such a recognition by the applicants of the present invention to generate medium identifying information that is specific to and that uniquely characterizes each recording medium. For example as discussed in the present specification at page 19, lines 9-13, each and every DVD can thereby be uniquely identified. Applicants submit the above-noted features, and additional features discussed below, clearly distinguish over the applied art to Hiratsuka in view of Sako.

Applicants submit neither of the references to Hiratsuka nor Sako disclose or suggest the features now clarified in the claims as to acquiring the medium identifying information specific to and uniquely characterizing one recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium:

by imaging by a camera a printed surface of the one recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium to generate a luminance signal, and generating the medium identifying information by starting an operation of generating the luminance signal based on a physical address recorded on a recording surface of the recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium[.]

The outstanding rejection recognizes the primary reference to Hiratsuka does not disclose utilizing medium identifying information, and to cure such recognized deficiencies in Hiratsuka the outstanding rejection cites Sako, and particularly cites the references to the “original medium identification information” discussed in Sako at paragraphs [0203], [0204], and [0213].²

Applicants traverse that grounds for the rejection.

Applicants first submit the cited disclosures in Sako are not directed to the features clarified in the claims of utilizing a camera to image a printed surface of a recording medium

¹ Specification for example at page 18, line 21 et seq.

² Office Action of July 11, 2011, page 5, paragraphs i, j.

and to generate the medium identifying information by starting an operation of generating that imaging by the camera based on a physical address recorded on the recording surface of the recording medium. Sako is not directed to any such features.

Moreover, applicants submit the outstanding Office Action is continuing to misconstrue disclosures in Sako as Sako does not even disclose or suggest that the cited “original medium identification information” uniquely identifies a recording medium.

As noted above, and as noted in the specification at page 19, lines 9-13, with the claimed features each and every recording medium such a DVD can be uniquely identified. Sako clearly fails to disclose or suggest such features as is still not fully appreciated in the Office Action.

Sako discloses particularly at cited paragraphs [0203], [0204], and [0213] utilizing original medium identification information that indicates the *type* of the recording medium. In Sako different mediums of the same type would appear to have the same identifier. The disclosure in Sako is not directed to uniquely identifying each recording medium. The Office Action has not addressed that distinction between the claims as currently written and the cited disclosures in Sako in any coherent manner. Sako at cited paragraph [0205] specifically states “[t]he original medium identification information describes the medium *type* of the original of the content” (emphasis added). Sako in paragraph [0205] goes on to indicate providing an indication of whether the record medium is an original record medium or a non-original record medium. Such information in Sako does not uniquely identify each recording medium.

Applicants also draw attention to Figure 15 in Sako that shows storing an original medium identification that can indicate whether the disk is an ROM, R, RW, or R or RW. Again such disclosures in Sako do not uniquely identify the recording medium, but only the type of recording medium. In Sako different recording mediums of the same type will have

that same medium identifier. In contrast to Sako a feature in the claimed invention is each recording medium will have its own unique identifying information. Sako does not disclose or suggest such features.

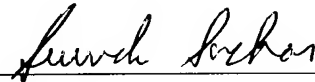
Thereby, in view of the foregoing comments no disclosures in Sako cure the recognized deficiencies in Hiratsuka with respect to the claims as currently written.

In view of the foregoing comments, applicants submit the claims as currently written clearly distinguish over Hiratsuka in view of Sako.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted this application is in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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